

REMARKS

Receipt is acknowledged of the Office Action mailed August 24, 2004. Claims 1-23 were pending in the application. Claims 17-20 and 22 have been amended. No new matter has been introduced. Thus, claims 1-23 are resubmitted for reconsideration at this time.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for consideration of the priority documentation in the pending application.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the allowance of claims 1-16, 21 and 23. Applicant further acknowledges with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 18 and 20. Claims 18 and 20 stand objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 18 and 20 are dependent upon claim 17, and are believed to be allowable for at least the following reasons with respect to claim 17 in addition to the further patentable features recited therein. Allowance of claims 18 and 20 is solicited.

Prior Art Rejections

Claims 17, 19 and 22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,304,477 to Naji ("Naji" hereafter). Claims 17-20 and 22 have been amended to recite a phase change memory device. Support for this amendment can be found, for example, in paragraph [0064] of the as-filed specification. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection of claims 17, 19 and 22 as amended for at least the following reasons.

Naji fails to disclose or suggest a phase change memory device as claimed. Rather, Naji discloses magnetic tunnel junctions (MTJS) 12 and 14 using a magnetic layer as a memory for storing data (col. 2, lines 10-14). As the memory disclosed by Naji is not a phase change memory as claimed, Naji fails to anticipate the presently claimed invention for at least this reason.

Further, Naji fails to disclose or suggest the current supply means recited in claim 22.

More specifically, as described in paragraphs [0045] to [0048] of the as-filed specification, the claimed current supply means directly supplies power to the phase change memory means in response to a write signal. In contrast, Naji discloses transistors 21 and 25 which are turned on when an enable signal EN is activated. These transistors 21, 25 are positioned between the switching transistors 22, 26, 28 and 29 and MTJS 12 and 14, and supply the current applied from switching transistors 22, 26, 28 and 29 to MTJS 12 and 14. See Figure 1 of Naji. As such, Naji fails to disclose the claimed current supply means which directly supplies power to the phase change memory means. Hence, Naji fails to anticipate the presently claimed invention for this additional reason.

Withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Naji is solicited.

Conclusion


In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests that all objections and rejections be withdrawn and that a notice of allowance be forthcoming. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned for any reason related to the advancement of this case.

The Commissioner is authorized to credit any over payment or charge any deficient to deposit account number 08-1641.

Respectfully submitted,

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